

Hafa Adai!

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Manglona sworn in for second 10-year term

U.S. District Court of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona was sworn in yesterday to officially begin her second term as a district judge. Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood of the U.S. District Court of Guam administered the oath virtually before Manglona's family, court staff, and friends.

President Joe Biden appointed Manglona for another 10-year term as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI. Last Tuesday, the U.S.

Senate confirmed her nomination by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 96-2. Manglona became a federal judge in

See MANGLONA on Page 4

CCC board cancels IPI revocation deliberation until further notice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board canceled yesterday's scheduled deliberation whether to revoke or not Imperial Pacific Interna-

tional (CNMI) LLC's exclusive gaming license.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said Sunday night that pursuant to IPI's filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition,

See CCC on Page 4



Palacios takes stand in parole chief's forgery trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial for chief parole officer Nick Reyes Masga kicked off yesterday with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios taking the stand as the

See PALACIOS on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios leaves Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's courtroom yesterday afternoon after testifying in the bench trial of chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes.



Bill creating fund, council for opioid settlement funds signed into law

» **But governor raises 2 OAG concerns with legislation**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed into law on Friday a bill that seeks to establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee

funding for substance abuse treatment programs in the CNMI.

In signing House Bill No. 23-80 into Public Law No. 23-19, Palacios, however, noted two concerns with the bill raised by the Office of the

See BILL on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

In the vast expanse of the Pacific, where the horizon seems to stretch infinitely, blending sea and sky, Chief Petty Officer Luis Jose Reyes Blas charts a profoundly personal and universally inspiring course.

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WORLD

Saturday's passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a much-awaited \$61-billion package for Ukraine puts the country a step closer to an infusion of new firepower that will be rushed to the front line to fight Moscow's latest attacks.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Mary J. Blige, Cher, Foreigner, A Tribe Called Quest, Kool & The Gang and Ozzy Osbourne have been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a class that also includes folk-rockers Dave Matthews Band and singer-guitarist Peter Frampton.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MVA touts Marianas' English studies programs

In its latest promotion to attract visitors to the Marianas for edu-tourism, the Marianas Visitors Authority will be participating in the 55th International Education & Career Korea 2024 on April 27 and 28 in Seoul, South Korea.

At the exhibition, the MVA will meet with attendees looking for overseas study opportunities and will highlight various English language training

programs in the Marianas. An estimated 25,000 people are expected to attend.

"Edu-tourism—and especially the opportunity to learn English—has been a niche market of the MVA for decades, and we find it to be growing in popularity through the years," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Celebrating its 55th anniversary this year,

the International Education & Career Fair Korea has had 1.5 million attendees since its inception in 1992, we know it's a prime opportunity for reaching this market and let them know that the Marianas is the United States—with native English speakers—just 4 1/2 hours away from Seoul. We will be introducing a variety

of local programs where attendees can enjoy learning English in the relaxed environment and free-spirited culture of our islands."

The fair provides a platform for exchanging information on overseas study, language courses, internships, employment opportunities, and more. Renowned for its credibility,

the fair sees the direct participation of tourism boards, embassies, cultural centers from various countries, as well as school representatives from top institutions worldwide.

Travel agency representatives such as Yellow Balloon Tour and My Real Trip will conduct consultations at the MVA booth, offering various benefits including special discounts for on-site bookings. Most English camps in the Marianas offers a fulfill-

ing and enriching schedule where participants attend classes alongside local students at schools throughout Saipan. After classes, participants engage in diverse activities around the island during afterschool hours.

Schools interested in being included in the list of English study institutions may provide their contact information to MVA Marketing specialist Skye Seo at hseo@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200.

SIS undertakes mandated reporter training from DYS



Saipan International School recently underwent Division of Youth Services training session that equipped mandated reporters with essential tools and insights necessary for identifying and responding to signs of distress or abuse among students.

This initiative underscores the school's commitment to creating a secure and nurturing learning environment.

"We are pleased to have collaborated with DYS on this training initiative," commented Angela Taflinger, counselor of Saipan International School. "By empowering mandated reporters with the knowledge and resources they need, we are fostering a culture of vigilance and support that is essential for the development and well-being of our students."

The training visit covered a range of topics, including recognizing indicators of abuse, navigating reporting protocols, and fostering a trauma-informed approach to student care. Participants engaged in discussions and scenario-based exercises, helping them to better understand their role in promoting student welfare.

SIS extends its gratitude to DYS for their partnership in this endeavor. Together, SIS stands committed to prioritizing the safety, well-being, and academic success of every student in the community. To contact the Department of Public Safety, call (670) 664-9000/1 and DYS can be reached directly on Saipan, 24 hours per day, at (670) 237-1005 to 1014, on Tinian at (670) 287-3268 and on Rota at (670) 287-2553.

SIS provides a rigorous and nurturing educational environment that fosters the holistic development of each student. Through innovative programs and a commitment to excellence, SIS empowers students to become lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. For more information, call <https://www.saipaninternationalschool.com/>. (PR)

HELP PROTECT SEA TURTLES

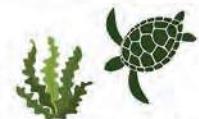
Green and hawksbill sea turtles are listed as Threatened and Endangered and are protected federally under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and locally under CNMI Public Law 02-51. It is illegal to harass, kill, capture, or collect turtles and their eggs.



GO SLOW TURTLES BELOW
BOATERS: DRIVE SLOWLY NEAR REEFS AND HARBORS



DISPOSE OF TRASH PROPERLY
KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN

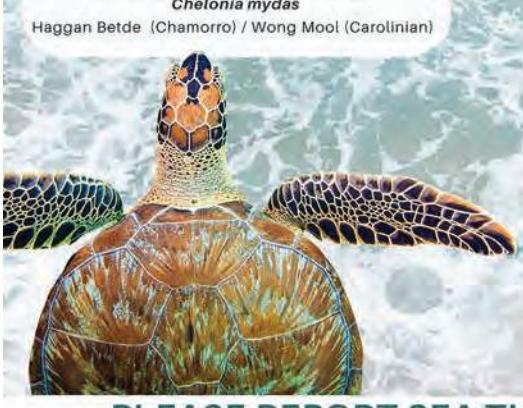


ALLOW TURTLES TO FEED ON THEIR OWN
LET THEM GRAZE AND HUNT FOR THEIR FOOD INDEPENDENTLY

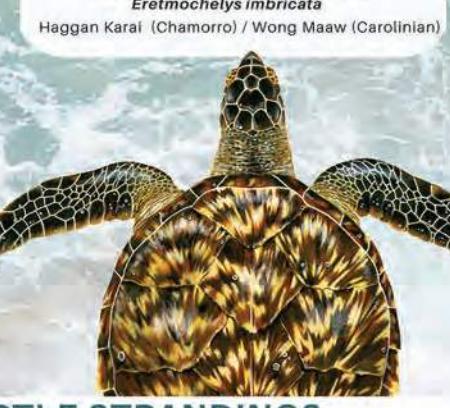


GIVE TURTLES THEIR SPACE
IF YOU SEE A TURTLE, GIVE IT SPACE AND WATCH FROM AFAR

GREEN SEA TURTLE
Chelonia mydas
Haggan Betde (Chamorro) / Wong Mool (Carolinian)



HAWKSBILL TURTLE
Eretmochelys imbricata
Haggan Karai (Chamorro) / Wong Maaw (Carolinian)



PLEASE REPORT SEA TURTLE STRANDINGS, NESTING, TRACKS, OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO THE CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Department of Lands & Natural Resources
Office of the Secretary of DLNR
(670) 322-9830/34

Division of Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Section
(670) 664 / 6000
(670) 287-1126

CNMI Sea Turtle Conservation Program
Anonymous Hotline: (670) 287-8537
www.facebook.com/CNMISTP
cnmi_seaturtles

Commonwealth Zoning Board Board Meeting

April 25, 2024 | 2:00 PM
DPS Training Facility (behind former BMV)
Susupe, Saipan • Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

POSTPONED from 4/04/24

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 04/04/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 03/07/2024 Special Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2044** – Da Green Door proposes to develop Two (2) ocean freight shipping containers measuring 42'.10" (L) x 20' (W) x 10'.5" (H) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 17 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2045** – LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House proposes to utilize Three (3) units measuring 66' 3" (L) x 23' 2" (W) on the 2nd floor of an existing two-story building for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House-Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-1-3 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0598** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail proposes to utilize one (1) unit measuring 44'-8" (L) x 15' 3" (W) on the ground floor of an existing three-story building for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0599** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge proposes to utilize one (1) unit on the ground floor of an existing three-story building measuring 44'-8" (L) x 14' 11" (W) for its "Cannabis Lounge" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Old Business

1. Proposed Text Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 – Board Review and Comments

D. New Business

1. Administrative Findings/ Recommendation on Application for Change in Zoning District/ Use – Atkins Kroll seeks to amend Beach Road Zoning District Use and Requirement to allow for Automobile Sales & Service Use

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel

1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations – Legal Review

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman

NMC Nursing program accepting applications for fall 2024 cohort

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing can apply to become part of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department's newest cohort in the fall 2024 semester.

Those who meet the program's requirements can

submit their application beginning Monday, April 22, to Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

The selection of students will be based on the following criteria:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher;
2. Completion of all core

course prerequisites (except SO 297) and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher;

3. The ability to understand, speak and write in English;

4. A passing score in the program's admission test. More information about the

program's admission test can be found on the NMC website's nursing page.

The admission test for the fall 2024 admission will be administered to eligible applicants on June 27-28, 2024. Pre-nursing students completing their prerequisites by

the end of the summer 2024 session must plan to take the admission test in June of the following year.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the nursing courses. For the fall 2024 admission cohort,

the class size is limited to 25 students. If there is not enough space for all applicants, a waitlist will be established.

Students are advised to make an appointment with their nursing advisor via email as soon as possible to discuss prerequisites and transcripts to determine their current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

Selection of students for the fall 2024 cohort will be completed before the beginning of the fall 2024 semester in August.

A notification letter will be sent to each applicant using the address designated on the application. Application forms may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu/nursing.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department via email at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosa.aldan@marianas.edu. (PR)

SHS receives training from Banfield Foundation, BluePearl Cares

Saipan Humane Society is proud to announce the successful completion of a crucial training program conducted by Banfield Foundation and BluePearl Cares. The training, provided by the visiting veterinarian and technician team of Dr. Erin Black and Lacey



SHS

Saipan Humane Society staff recently received training from Banfield Foundation and BluePearl Cares to enhance their diagnostic capabilities, animal handling techniques, and clinic efficiencies.

Frame, registered veterinary technician, was tailored to enhance the diagnostic capabilities, animal handling techniques, and clinic efficiencies.

The training covered a spectrum of essential skills, includ-

ing advanced diagnostics such as microscopy for examining skin, feces, and blood samples. Additionally, emphasis was placed on animal handling and restraint techniques to ensure the safety and well-being of both the animals and our staff. Moreover, time was spent optimizing clinic processes and efficiencies, despite the many challenges faced by the organization.

One of the pivotal shifts proposed during the training is the transition towards becoming an appointment-based clinic, allowing a more streamlined service delivery. Furthermore, the introduction of emailing medical records to clients after sick visits aims to enhance communication with pet owners.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the training was extended to include staff from the Saipan Mayor's Office's



SHS

Saipan Humane Society will be collaborating again with Banfield Foundation in September and October for spay/neuter clinics.

Dog Control Program and the Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health division. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment to advancing animal welfare across the community.

Saipan Humane Society also extends heartfelt appreciation to Atkins Kroll Toyota for generously lending a car to the visiting team.

As part of ongoing efforts to expand services, Saipan Humane Society is excited to

announce plans to move to a larger clinic space in the coming weeks. Please stay tuned to our social media channels for updates regarding our clinic schedule during this transitional period.

Looking ahead, Saipan Humane Society will be collaborating again with Banfield Foundation in September and October for spay/neuter clinics, furthering our mission to promote responsible pet ownership and population control. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION AIP NO. 3-69-0003-34/XX**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation AIP No. 3-69-0003-34/XX" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. (CHST), FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal. Bids will be delivered to the Airport Conference Room immediately following the 2:00 p.m. deadline, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (\$150.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024**, at the Rota Airport to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offer or certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2024

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Legislature now in last phase of implementing security enhancement plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature is currently in the final stages of implementing the last phase of their security enhancement plan, according to Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio

last Wednesday.

In providing the Senate and House of Representatives with an update on the progress of the security enhancement plan, Tenorio said the last phase includes the installation of strategically positioned security cameras

within the building.

He said upon the completion of this phase, the installation and upgrade of security cameras will be finalized, significantly enhancing the overall security posture of the premises.

Tenorio said inside the Senate

and House chambers, a single camera will be placed to ensure comprehensive coverage.

He said given that their broadcasting cameras do not capture footage of the gallery, these additional security cameras will be exclusively dedicated to monitoring this area.

The director said this measure ensures that any incidents or concerns within the gallery will be accurately documented for future reference.

He said the lobbies and hallways will also be equipped with surveillance cameras to further bolster their security infrastructure.

Tenorio noted that these cameras are designed to operate passively and do not have the capability to capture or record audio.

He said their activation is triggered solely by motion detection, thereby respecting privacy while providing effective surveillance.

Mt. Carmel School's Q3 president's list, honor roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the third quarter of school year 2023-2024 president's list and honor roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

(Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above)

1st Grade

Averyrose Malia B. Allen
Caitlyn Mae A. Matsunaga
Carlos B. Deleon Guerrero
Coral Jade S. Aldan
Emberlee Shae S. Westbrook
Erin Rousce P. De Belen
Jaxon Bryce P. Camacho
Matteo John P. Rizo
Nasisa Olivia K. Demapan
Renzo Gavriel R. David
Stieven Zane A. Dimafelix
Thomas Flores
Tsuyoshiro Aries K. Tutiy
Yzzabella F. Vergel de Dios
Zun H. Wang

2nd Grade

Alexandra Victoria Stuart
Angel Sofhia A. Pineda
Avalyn Mae N. Lizama
Bentley Ellaine C. Santos
Chloe Jodia B. Mostales

Dylan Jon C. Pangelinan
Francine Jaymee O. Pineda
Grayson E. Jo
Isaiah Francisco P. Villagomez
Jeevoni Dre T. Cruz
Landon Jay C. Pangelinan
Liam Tasi S. Ehsa
Logan Jesus D. Tenorio
Rhiana Kay G. Kautz
Zhane Graeson V. Jugos

3rd Grade

Ariah Kadyn M. Deleon Guerrero
Arielle Jane G. Anicete
Aubrey Nicole A. Matsunaga
Benz Elliott C. Santos
Brayden Kane P. Taguchi
Carlie W. Bai
Eduardo Vicente D. Diaz II
Farrell Huan C. Dela Santa
Gabriella Salome D. Gamab
Jeremy Sho B. Sasamoto
Jesse Joseph Gregory J. Palacios
Ji Yoo K. Lee
Juliana Riley H. Apelo
Leilani Soledad N. Castro
Miriam Grace Flores
Mya Joy C. Manibusan
Rockson R. Cabrera
Sumai Francine B. Castro
Vincent C. Salavarria

4th Grade

Ava Monae C. Basa
Youngwoo (Stella) Choi

Rei Ezekiel P. De Belen
Isaiah Preston Paul
Ezekiel Ma'nu'i P. Villagomez
Maverick L. Yamanaka
Khoen Alexander C. Torres
Scott Jonathan Y. Muna
Jace S. Pangelinan
Gabriella Jo C. Tenorio

5th Grade

Aiyana Carmen B. Pangelinan
Clarise Faith C. Garamonte
Erika Loreen T. Cuyugan
Friella Huanne C. Dela Santa
Jake Peter C. Deleon Guerrero Jr.
Jonathan L. Zhang
Kirk Ivan E. De Perio
Logan Kane M. Propst

6th Grade

Chloe Anne Marie A. Matsunaga
Jeongwoo (Ryan) Choi
Karl Angelo M. Diaz
Kathleen B. Cano
Kennani Vinae C. Villagomez
Ki Eun K. Lee
Lilliana Terie A. Villagomez
Lydia J. Xian
Miana Dolores B. Delacruz

7th Grade

Maria Guerrero

8th Grade

Alexia Aulene M. Rubia

Arthur Angel O. Deliva
Avania Clarise E. Quichocho

Cecilia R. Villagomez
Ciana Lei B. Demapan
David John Romaldo S. Apatang
Do Geon Kim
Gabriella Aundrea B. Inos
Heather Elizabeth Pain A. Sin
Isabella Soledad G. Demapan
Jadine Nicole P. Pangelinan
Jener Franz O. Pineda
Jessie Chen

John Matthew L. Ellama
Ju Hwan S. Hyun
Julius Y. Sheu
Katherine Hwang
Kayla Rose Larson
Layla Carmen Ann J. Palacios
Remiegem B. Melchor
Victor Neil M. Santos

9th Grade

Ana Guadalupe M. Villagomez
Hope Gianna McQuay
Jose Clarence S. Tenorio
Josephine L. Lopez
Nicole Angela S. Pangilinan
Sage R. Villagomez

10th Grade

Arwen Hannah N. Bartolata
Camron Zavier S. Pangelinan
Chae Eun Kim (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From page 1

the board has postponed the scheduled revocation deliberation until further notice.

Under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a company is allowed to stay in business and restructure its finances and operations.

DeLeon Guerrero said with the filing of bankruptcy petition on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, IPI also filed a notice of automatic stay on CCC executive director's two

complaints against IPI.

DeLeon Guerrero recused from the revocation case. *Saipan Tribune* learned that he, however, has been acting on behalf of Yeom in trying to close the proposed settlement with IPI throughout last week because Yeom's temporary contract as CCC's executive director expired last April 13.

The revocation deliberation was originally set for last April 9, but it did not push through after the board granted Yeom's request that day to give them more time to complete the proposed settlement deal with IPI.

After a four-hour of settlement discussions, Yeom informed the board that they failed to reach a settlement deal.

This prompted the commissioners to hold an hour-long executive session that day, April 9, where they discussed legal issues.

After the executive session, CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan announced that members decided that they are going to go on recess until the following day, April 10, to have additional guidance from their legal counsel.

Last April 10, the board granted Yeom's request for an additional 10 business days, or until yesterday, April 22, to complete the final details of the proposed settlement agreement with IPI. At that time, IPI director/manager Howyo Chi floated the plan of filing a bankruptcy petition and informed the board that their Hawaii bankruptcy lawyer will come to Saipan.

Last Friday, IPI filed the bankruptcy petition. Demapan said yesterday that the board's monthly meeting is set for this Thursday.

Further, Palacios said, the governor as a member of the council might be precluded from voting on many matters by conflict of interest rules because the Community Guidance Center and Hinemlu Ohala Para Enteramenti (HOPE) Recovery Center are within the Office of the Governor.

House vice speaker Rep. Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) introduced House Bill 23-80 last Oct. 5. The House unanimously passed the legislation that same day. The Senate passed it without amendments last March 12.

Camacho stated in the bill that the CNMI anticipates receiving substantial payments from the settlement of litigation against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies dispensing prescription opioid

analgesics, and related parties for allegedly contributing to high rates of drug overdoses and other drug-related harms.

Camacho said the bill establishes a dedicated fund for substance abuse disorder abatement, and creates a council to handle the award of monies to agencies that engage in substance abuse disorder abatement.

Under the legislation, the Opioid Litigation Proceeds Fund is established in the Commonwealth treasury. It will be administered by the Department of Finance.

pointed by the governor.

As for any changes made to the RFPA's regarding Reyes' contract, Selepeo claims she did not alter the documents.

Meanwhile, during opening arguments, Reyes' attorney Joaquin Torres argued that it is the government's burden to prove (beyond reasonable doubt) that Reyes altered or forged documents to extend his contract as Parole chief ultimately defrauding the CNMI government.

However, Torres claims that throughout the course of the trial, not one government witness will be able to say that Reyes was responsible for any altercations made to the documents presented in court.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Kingman filed last February two separate cases against Reyes—one count of misconduct in public office and four counts of forgery.

Reyes allegedly forged and altered, on or about Dec. 20, 2023, the terms of employment of a person from 30 days to one year. This offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than five years.

Also, Reyes and co-defendant Chuilian Fu are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, one count of conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and two counts of theft by deception in relation to the authorization of funds for the construction of a patio.

In this case, Reyes and Fu allegedly agreed last Oct. 4, 2022, to build a patio at the Parole Office that was to be built by a tailoring company owned by Fu, F&S Corp., in the amount of \$9,997.80. In reality though, the patio was allegedly built using unpaid labor performed by parolees under the direction of Reyes.

Reyes has pleaded not guilty in both cases.

MANGLONA

From page 1

2011, when President Obama first appointed her. She is the first person from the Northern Mariana Islands to serve as a federal judge.

"I am truly grateful to President Biden for this appointment, and to the United States Senate for their bipartisan vote of confidence on my nomination, bestowing on me the privilege and honor to continue serving on the federal judi-

cacy," said Manglona.

President Biden announced his intent to renominate Manglona for a second term in August 2023 and officially transmitted the nomination to the United States Senate on Sept. 6, 2023. The United States Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing in November 2023 and later unanimously supported her nomination.

Last Thursday, April 18, President Biden formally signed the commission, which was the official act of re-appointment. (PR)

BILL

From page 1

Attorney General.

The governor told Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) in a letter that first, because the Judiciary is not represented on the council, funding may be diverted toward substance abuse programs housed within the executive branch rather than to the Drug Court.

Palacios urged the Legisla-

ture to consider future legislation to amend these provisions.

Palacios said, the bill's requirement that the attorney general promulgate regulations to implement the controlling court order may be duplicative of the court order itself.

Palacios urged the Legisla-

Transpac, BOG, TSL Foundation, Docomo, Bridge Capital donate to ARC Walkathon

The CNMI business community, despite difficult economic times, continues to support the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.

The Transpac Group of Companies (Coca-Cola, Subway, Foremost, Glimpses, and Scoops) has donated more than \$10,000 worth of products.

They provided 29 6-foot Subway sandwiches for all the Saipan walkers as well as Powerade hydration and Foremost blended coffee drinks and Scoops ice cream cones.

"We are thankful again this year to have the generous support of the Transpac group. They have supported the Red Cross Walkathon for more than 15 years. Our event wouldn't be successful without their partnership and commitment to Red Cross programs and services" said John Hirsh, NMI Red Cross executive director.

In addition, Bank of Guam has donated \$3,000, TSL



ARC-NMI CHAPTER

Bank of Guam donated \$3,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.



ARC-NMI CHAPTER

The Transpac Group of Companies (Coca-Cola, Subway, Foremost, Glimpses, and Scoops) donated more than \$10,000 worth of products to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.

Foundation \$2,500, Docomo Pacific \$2,000, and Bridge

Capital, LLC \$1,500 to the 35th Annual Walkathon.

"We are grateful to these leading NMI businesses that find value in supporting the Red Cross. We rely on their generosity to support our lifesaving work" said Joshua Wise, chairman of the Red Cross board of directors.

The Walkathon took place last Saturday, April 20, and started at 6am at American Memorial Park. A \$20 donation includes refreshments, giveaways and a Walkathon T-shirt. A \$75 donation includes a PIC waterpark pass and other prizes. (PR)



ARC-NMI CHAPTER

The TSL Foundation donated \$2,500 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.



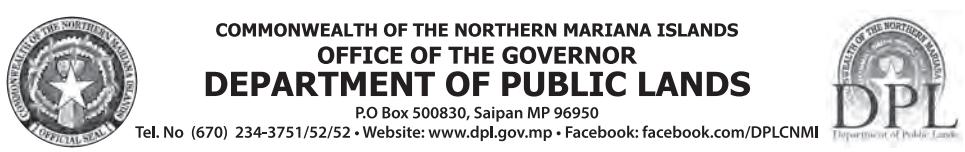
ARC-NMI CHAPTER

Docomo Pacific donated \$2,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.



ARC-NMI CHAPTER

Bridge Capital, LLC donated \$1,500 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 35th Annual Walkathon.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan MP 96950

Tel. No. (670) 234-3751/52/52 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Facebook: facebook.com/DPLCNMI



NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 030 D 01, containing an area of approximately 14,255 square meters and Lot 101 D 01, containing an area of approximately 2,610 square meters, in Navy Hill Saipan for a total of 16,865 square meters. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective Lessee is Grace Christian Academy of Saipan. The list of officers for Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Michael Rodgers as Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris as Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Fatialofa as Board Member, Benjamin Vivero as Board Member, and Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez as Principle.
- iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the Board Chairman of Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
- iv. The Lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the operation of a school from kindergarten to 12 grade; and other school and church related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 40 years with an extension of up to 15 years with approval of the Legislature in accordance with P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPLs regulation.

A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ara Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

- v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.
- vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before April 25, 2024, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

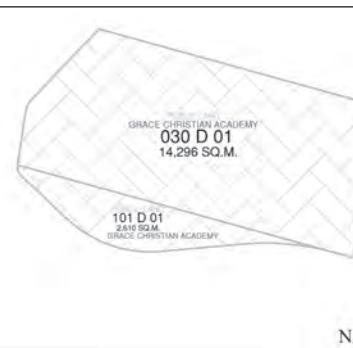
Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannāñai huyung nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku gi Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marías. Masehi háyi na pattidá intrínsa gi halum hinirát pupbliku siña muná hálum upiñon, infomasion, pat testimonion kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Komu mapribeni más mo'na ginjin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiy pettanesi na infomasion manisita para u mapupbliku.

- i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku komu Lot 030 D 01, kunsististi kási 14,255 square meters yan Lot 101 D 01, ni kunsististi kási 2,610 square meters ni gaigi gi halum Navy Hill iya Saipan para tutáñ nu 16,865 square meters. I mápa ni ina'z annuk i lugát managuha gi ufisian Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku para inspeksión.
- ii. I prospective Lessee i Grace Christian Academy iya Saipan. I listan ufisian siha para Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: si Rev. Michael Rodgers komu Kabesiyan Kuetpu, si Siñorita Catherine Harris komu Sekretáriya, si Siñorita Beatrice Fatialofa komu Membrun Kuetpu, si Benjamin Vivero komu Membrun Kuetpu, yan si Siñorita Beth Ann Nunez komu Prínsipiat.
- iii. I maproponi na atkilon matáttiy i regulasión DPL yan ginen manegosiu ni Kabesiyan Kuetpu nu Grace Christian Academy, as Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
- iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugát put atu' ha' na rason i operasióñ nu i iskuela ginen i kattiya asta 12 grádu; yan ottru manasosiatá na aktibidá iskuela yan guma' Yu'us siha.
- v. I tamen i maproponi na kuntrátan atkilon sa 40 áñus na tiempu yan i ekstensióñ asta 15 áñus na tiempu yan i inapruéban i Lehislatura signu yan i P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).
- vi. I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sákkán gi durántin teman kuntrátan i' atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bálin "appraised fair market" i propiedát yan i aplikáo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasión DPL.
- vii. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrátan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisian i Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ara Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokkuu na u managuha online on www.dpl.gov.mp
- viii. I Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni hafa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Navy Hill, giya Saipan.
- ix. I Sekritáriun Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinig' upiñon, infomasion, testimonion kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginjin i manintas na pattida siha gi pat ántis di Abril 25, 2024, gi ufisian Dipāttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian. I inekkunguk pupbliku siempri magopti yanggin marikuesta gi duránti tiempun upiñon.

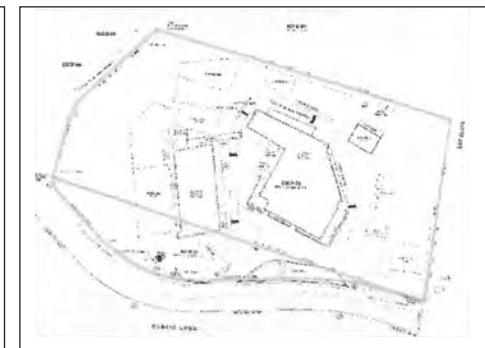
ARONGORONGOL ATKKILOÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táll 106 (b) reil Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isisiwiow arongorong igha re mágemangil rebwe atkkilág faluweer toulap iil Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falu'w kka Etáng iil Marías. Schóó kka re tipáli sángi toulap emmwel rebwe isisilong ischil kkapas, data, views, ngare angíngi ppwommol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Re bwal ayoora sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikaa e fil ebwe akitáteewó.

- i. Powommol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáá bwe Lot 030 D 01, e lo bwe 14,255 reel square meters me Lot 101 D 01, iye e bwáá bwe 2,610 reel square meters, me Navy Hill Seipél me alongal falu'w yeel nge e toowow bwe 16,865 reel square meters. Eyoó móópa me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap reel falu'w yeel ngare u mwuschel amwuri.
- ii. Powommol schóó atkkilóónol nge Grace Christian Academy me Seipél, lyeel list-al officers ngáli Grace Christian Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Michael Rodgers bwe Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris bwe Sekretáriya, Mrs. Beatrice Fatialofa bwe Membrun Board, Benjamin Vivero bwe Membrun Board, Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez bwe Principal.
- iii. Powommol atkkilóónol nge e angúngu fengál me mwóghutughutul DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Board Chairman-Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
- iv. Schóó atkkilóónol ebwe yááyá falu'w ngáli mwóghutughutul imwal rághefisch e bwel me kindergarten ngáli seigh me ruwoow guróódo; fengál akkááw mwóghutughutul imwal rághefisch me imwal Liyoos.
- v. Pwommol abwungubwungl atkkilóónol nge fááigh ráagh fengál me extention iye e mwéta seigh me limoo ráagh fengál me atirow sángi Sou Allégh (Legislature) bwe e angúngu fengál me P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).
- vi. Pwommol atkkilóónol ghá ráagh atol abwungubwungl atkkilóónol yeel nge e lo real percentage-il appraised fair market value reel falu'w fengál me application percentage reel Gross Receipts iil mwóghutughutul DPL.
- vii. Emmwel ubwe bweibwogh pappidil ppwommol atkkilóónol me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ara Commercial Building, Apilómwl Songsong, Luta; ngare 1st floor me PM Building, Tchiliyó. Ebwal yoór pappidil mille ubwe amwuri online me www.dpl.gov.mp
- viii. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap resáil bweibwogh pappidil siweiil ppwommol atkkilóónol falu'w iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél.
- ix. Sekretáriun Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil kkapas, views, angíngi ngare siweiil ppwommol sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngare mmwalí Abril 25, 2024, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luta ngare Tchiliyó.



NAVY HILL



Opinion

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The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No debate about it: A fitting end to the ridiculous impeachment of Alejandro Mayorkas

The 49 Senate Republicans spent Wednesday afternoon furiously sputtering that they weren't allowed to debate if Alejandro Mayorkas, the secretary of homeland security, duly and formally impeached by the House, should be tried in the upper chamber.

It's their own fault, having blocked a chance to engage in several hours of debate, so they have nothing to complain about.

Under the normal workings of the Constitution's impeachment provisions, the House, by a majority vote, impeaches (which means charging or indictment) the incumbent or former official in question and the Senate holds a trial, which requires a two-thirds majority for conviction.

But that is if the impeachment itself is valid and in the case of the Mayorkas, it is not. The Republicans and their puppet master, Donald Trump, are ginning up the machine against immigration and making Mayorkas their whipping boy for chaos at the border.

Forget that it was Trump who spoiled a bipartisan immigration bill that would have tightened up the border, the Republicans want their political disagreements with President Biden and Mayorkas to go the impeachment route (which also gets back at the Dems, who quite correctly impeached Trump twice).

But Trump and all other people previously impeached satisfied the Constitution's rules, laid out in the last section of Article II: "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Repeating: "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

There is no evidence against Mayorkas on any of these grounds. There are policy differences absolutely, but no crimes. The reasonable solution would be for the Senate to just dismiss the phony impeachment and dispense with any trial.

Republicans sought either a trial before all 100 senators, as pushed by Sen. Mike Lee or, as Sen. Ted Cruz wanted, a special committee to conduct the trial, as has been done with some trials of impeached federal judges. So Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer offered the GOP a deal.

He agreed to an hour debate on the two GOP options. If they both failed, as was expected with the 51-49 Democratic control, Schumer then would make a motion to dismiss the first of the two articles of impeachment as not being constitutional. There would then be a one-hour debate on that. And then Schumer would move to dismiss the second article of impeachment, again with an hour for real debate.

Finally, Schumer would move to end the court of impeachment. Overall, it was three solid hours of debate about the Mayorkas case. But the Republicans said no, so Schumer went ahead to dismiss and all the Republicans could do was make a bunch of useless, nondebatable efforts to switch to executive session or table the measure or adjourn to April 30 or to May 1 or Nov. 6 (the day after Election Day). Each required a roll call vote.

See MAYORKAS on Page 7



The hush money trial has only just begun, but it's not a good look for Candidate Trump

The first criminal trial of a former U.S. president hadn't started this week, and already Donald Trump found himself behind bars. It wasn't a good look for Candidate Trump.

Whenever he enters or leaves the Manhattan courtroom in the case of People of New York State vs. Donald J. Trump, Defendant Trump makes a beeline for the cameras, to rant about the goings-on. But to reach them, he must enter a security pen—like a small cell—formed by metal barricades akin to bike racks. They recall the barriers put up to keep his supporters from storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, but which the rioters brandished like weapons against police.

Alas, this trial isn't one of two that Trump faces for his role in the attempt to overturn Joe Biden's election. Nor is it for his alleged pilfering of top-secret documents when he left office.

This is the trial that many consider the least significant of the four pending against Trump. Yet it could well be the only case for which we see a verdict before November. And the charges—that he falsified financial records to disguise hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election, violating election laws—are not nothing.

So the legal dangers to Trump are real, and when it comes to politics, the damage the trial could do to his candidacy is not just significant, it could be determinative.

Sure, he could be acquitted, though a mistrial is probably his best hope. And though a conviction would doubtless cost Trump support, as polls suggest, that toll likely would be marginal in a polarized electorate. Still, that's where the 2024 election will be decided: within the margins in a half-dozen battleground states, just like in 2016 and 2020.

And no matter the trial's outcome, consider this: For perhaps two months, Trump is compelled to be in the courtroom much of the week—mostly silenced, diminished and at the mercy of a judge looking down on him from the bench. ("I won't tolerate that," Judge Juan M. Merchan admonished at one point Tuesday, after Trump muttered audibly about a prospective juror.) His swagger outside the court keeps his MAGA faithful in thrall, but Trump is in a general election campaign now: He needs to expand his support, not alienate voters by unpresidential petulance and his mere presence in the criminal dock.

The sordid facts of the case, involving payments to Playboy bunny Karen McDougal and Daniels, both of whom will testify, will be rehashed, likely with new details. That's hardly the stuff for appealing to fence-sitting voters, especially women.

Though Merchan barred prosecutors from eliciting testimony that Melania Trump was pregnant when Trump allegedly had an affair with McDougal—too prejudicial to Trump, he said—nothing prevents journalists from noting that louche timing (as I just did), along with the fact that Trump's alleged tryst with Daniels occurred soon after son Barron's birth. (Given that history, who but Trump would shamelessly put on a show of paternal devotion to falsely claim on Monday that Merchan won't let him attend Barron's high school graduation next month?)

Luckily for Trump, New York state law doesn't allow video cameras in the courtroom. Nonetheless, the optics are terrible for

By JACKIE CALMES

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



the former president.

Let's start with his appearances behind those jail-like bars. Alternatively, they call to mind a playpen, also an apt metaphor considering Trump's penchant for tantrums and juvenile outbursts, which have earned him a gag order from the judge. Trump is barred from publicly criticizing witnesses, prosecutors, court staff, jurors and family members of Merchan and Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg.

Already prosecutors have asked the judge to fine Trump for violating the gag order. Most defendants don't require such orders. For some wavering voters, it might matter that a candidate seeking to once again lead a nation founded on respect for the rule of law is so disrespectful that gags and fines are almost routine.

Merchan has permitted still photographers to snap shots of Trump at the defense table before the proceedings get underway. The former president, who markets his mug shot, is only too willing to mug for each of them.

Yet the photos have been no more flattering than Trump's performances for the broadcast cameras outside. He's looking old, haggard and puffy, the bags bulging below his eyes more than ever. His scowling pose doesn't convey the power Trump seems to think it does. He looks small sitting there, uncharacteristically mute and seeming utterly alone.

Courtroom artists' sketches are no better, particularly the ones that show him napping. Indeed, the reports about Trump's repeated dozing, from journalists inside the courtroom, were perhaps the biggest takeaway of the trial's opening days and a politically fraught meme for the 77-year-old Trump, who incessantly ridicules the 81-year-old Biden as addled "Sleepy Joe."

Late-night comics had a field day, er, night; political cartoonists were ruthless, and of course the Biden campaign was quick to post mockery of "Sleepy Don," complete with a lullaby. The best line came from MSNBC host Chris Hayes: "If you call your opponent Sleepy Joe, you have one job."

In short, Trump in just two days all but obliterated the edge he had over Biden on the age issue that so weighs on voters' minds.

From the start, Trump has made his campaign for reelection an extension of his legal fights, all about him and his grievances. For a time, it worked; he rolled over his Republican rivals for the party's nomination. Those days are past. He's penned in. Whether he resembles a jailbird or a crabby baby, he's hardly projecting the image most voters want in a president.

The unintended consequences of ‘defund the police’

ST. LOUIS—The closure of some St. Louis Walgreens stores is just one of the unintended consequences of the “defunding the police” rhetoric and policies as well as the culture of allowing crime without consequence. It also serves as an example that de-policing—or even the idea of de-policing—hurts the very people it is trying to help.

A couple weeks ago, Walgreens announced that it would close its store on 1400 North Grand Boulevard on April 9 because of “unsustainable business performance.”

Walgreens has been sustaining losses in many stores due to uncontrolled theft. There have also been reports of attacks on Walgreens employees and customers. All one has to do is search “Walgreens, St. Louis, and crime” to get a sense of the chaos many of the

drug stores in the region are experiencing.

Following the announcement of the closure, U.S. Rep. Cori Bush, D-St. Louis, sent a letter to Walgreens CEO Tim Wentworth saying that the abrupt closure will have “devastating ripple effects” on her district’s most vulnerable residents, especially people on Medicare and Medicaid.

She went on to write: “With this most recent closure, countless patients will lose access to their neighborhood pharmacy, which means potential gaps in procuring lifesaving prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.”

Bush also noted that the most recent closure will worsen the already existing pharmacy deserts in St. Louis. She cited the 2023 closures of Walgreens stores at 3631 Gravois Avenue and 5550 South

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Truth 41: 420-\$\$\$ Lost to Yesterday AGAIN!

Editor’s note: Letter to the editor is written in the artistic style of caps by the author and his language of Ebonics.

The TRUTH of the matter is WE (the CNMI) has just missed millions AGAIN on the most important day of the year for marijuana users world-wide. 4/20 came & left AGAIN with the CNMI failing to have any activity or event to recognize this all-important day. 4/20 is recognized around the world by marijuana users but it seems the CNMI wants to keep the fact that WE have legalized marijuana a secret while still wanting to make money, which is why the CNMI is not making money from our Cannabis Tourism Industry. I told the Senate and the community when I was working for the Senate to construct the Marijuana Bill that “the CNMI must promote the Cannabis Tourism Industry because our population is not large enough to pay for the cost of the government to operate the industry unlike Colorado and other states that have millions of citizens.” This is the fourth year WE have missed out on the many 4/20 dollars! And cutting salaries of the Cannabis Commissioners is not going to fix the need for “re-forming other laws and the entire industry.”

WE (the CNMI) are figuratively going “stir-crazy” over our need for new revenues, yet there haven’t been any real efforts to capitalize on the Cannabis Tourism Industry that was virtually founded by Ambrose M Bennett. They (GOP you-know-what(s) even created laws to prevent the industry from flourishing and to prevent me from being involved because I got in trouble over 50 years ago. But as it’s easy to see, their bigotry & scheming only served to put an industry on-the-books that is really costing much more to run than it is bringing in revenues because they changed the 89-page Bill I wrote trying to make Ambrose M Bennett’s plan THEIR 29-page plan that obviously is NOT working. There is nothing Public and it even cost 2,000 just to have a gathering at your private residence. It’s pathetic and ridiculous when it should be free and the government should be sponsoring an event like it does with other events like the Flame Tree Festival.

Legalization was wanted by an overwhelming number of citizens, which the Senate could not deny but the problem was it was Ambrose M. Bennett’s plan for recreational usage, so WE (the CNMI) ended up with an industry that is NOT being promoted in any way, shape, form nor fashion because of me. The only people who are happy are the locals who can now go to the dispensary, but the local population is not enough to run the industry and 4/20-day

was an opportunity for the CNMI to really capitalize on our Cannabis Tourism Industry through some kind of event. But instead, it is a matter of public record that trying to eliminate Ambrose M. Bennett and much of the input I made has caused the CNMI to go down a Dead-End-Road of bigotry & scheming causing the Commonwealth’s Cannabis Tourism to go no-where quick, fast and in-a-hurry!!! The present laws make sure there are no public Cannabis Tourism activities—ridiculous!!!

I know there is the perception that if the CNMI promotes Cannabis Tourism that some governments may be against their citizens coming here but that is another “marijuana falsehood,” as the generations of today are far more liberal and EDUCATED about the fact that marijuana is actually the safest and best “vice” when compared to cigarettes and alcohol. The world now knows marijuana is legal in America which has served to increase America’s tourism industry, as Colorado experienced a 1.6 billion dollars increase in their tourism industry directly attributed to marijuana being made legal. The CNMI can and should promote education on marijuana usage, which no one and no government can deny the facts of it being a healthier, safer vice than cigarettes and alcohol—stop being SCARED! any ways of promoting our Cannabis Tourism Industry over the Internet, but we aren’t doing DILLY-SQUAT!

Instead of leading in the education and transformation of world societies when it comes to marijuana, we are literally trying to keep legalization “in-the-closet”—duh & HELLER! There is no-way the CNMI can ever prosper from our Cannabis Tourism if WE are afraid to promote the industry and conduct events. There should have been chartered flights arriving for 4/20-day, but no one seems to care and no one is doing the necessary work to MAKE things happen for the better. The Inos Park might be a great place for Cannabis Events, given there hasn’t been anything there since the naming. The CNMI missed potential millions in tourism dollars from 4/20-day AGAIN so, end the dichotomy of secrecy v promoting our Cannabis Tourism Industry. WHO can champion legalization and make it happen as an industry and WHEN will 4/20-day become the productive tourism day it should be given marijuana was made legal for locals to use and the explicit purpose of Cannabis Tourism! One People One Direction

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman III

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

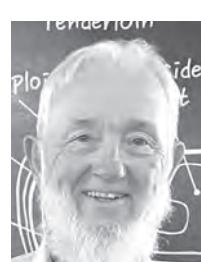
Earth Day and Passover

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE’ BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LNVN. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



April 22 begins the Jewish holiday of Passover. It commemorates the Hebrews liberation from slavery in Egypt and the “passing over” of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the first born of the Israelites: when the Lord “smote the land of Egypt” on the eve of Exodus. In Israel Passover is the seven-day holiday of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jewish people make an unleavened bread called matzoh at this time.

A MATZO BALL RECIPE

By Sally Wiener Grotta (1998)

Start with smaltz Lots of smaltz For love and humor that sparkles of life Add the binding The sense of family Meals eaten and laughed Knowing you belong Then mix it up, but gently, Oh, so gently That it not be hardened By your touch And finally share With joy and thought Questioning and questing That every day be a lesson.

April 22 is Earth Day. On the first day of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson, one of its founders, wrote in the April 1980 issue of the EPA Journal, “It was on that day that Americans made it clear that they understood and were deeply concerned over the deterioration of our environment and the mindless dissipation of our resources.” Former POTUS 45 going to trial in NYC today says repeatedly, “Drill, Drill, Drill.”

EARTH DAYS BEFORE WE WERE BORN

By Joey Connolly (2013)

I did not see all the thoughtless events that lead up to the moment where we are but using everyday basic common sense we don’t need to look back very far. Maybe one hundred years before our parents were born We began serious pollution of the water and sky as further and further from the earth we were torn. Very few of us stopped to pause and wonder why ... I did not hear of all the tragic manmade events that slowly diminished the quality of our life. Yet entire countries continue on in a most dense manner on a daily basis. Little disturbed by daily strife. There is however light in the darkness and clean water in the bay. As some folks live Earth Day helping our Earth every day.

By LYNN SCHMIDT

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.



Grand Boulevard and said she saw firsthand how it negatively impacted her constituents.

As reported in the Post-Dispatch last month, Walgreens spokesperson Samantha Stansberry responded saying the company is in communication with Bush, but they will proceed with the store’s closure as planned.

“We look forward to working with elected officials, community leaders and others to address the barriers that make it difficult for us to operate pharmacies in various communities across the country,” Stansberry said.

There has also been an online petition circulating by members of the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood asking the company to reconsider.

While Bush has been reacting to the closure of the store within her district, there seems to be little acknowledgement of her responsibility for the situation.

The closure of stores of all kinds is in part a result of progressive elected officials in the city pushing de-policing and “decarceration.” When people are not held accountable for their criminal actions, a permission structure is allowed to form that says crime is okay.

That said, the public is also culpable in this breakdown. The social contract between community members and the for-profit businesses in their neighborhoods has been eroded or completely broken as residents are not holding up their end of the bargain to shop and pay instead of stealing.

The closures are most unfortunate to the residents who use pharmacy services. But we should remember that Walgreens has legal obligations to their shareholders first and foremost and is not a social service agency.

In a paper published in 2015, economists John M. MacDonald, Jonathan Klick and Ben Grunwald confirmed prior research that demonstrates that police reduce crime.

University of Pennsylvania criminologist Aaron Chalfin co-authored a paper with economists who study crime and found that “Each additional police officer abates approximately 0.1 homicides” and “In per capita terms, effects are twice as large for Black versus white victims.” While the second paper addresses homicides, one could extrapolate their results to crime in general.

People don’t need to read studies to tell them that de-policing is not effective. They understand it on a personal level and will tell pollsters that it is not popular.

Back in 2020, an Ipsos/USA TODAY poll found that only 18% of respondents supported the movement known as “defund the police,” and 58% said they opposed it. Though white Americans (67%) and Republicans (84%) were much more likely to oppose the movement, only 28% of Black Americans and 34% of Democrats were in favor of it.

Only when voters start electing officials who represent their views on crime and policing and understand how governing affects their daily lives will things turn around. Then—and only then—will grocery and pharmacy deserts be a thing of the past.

There are real-life implications to progressive policies on crime and punishment. And it turns out it might just affect the health and well-being of the very constituents that progressive politicians claim to protect.

While it is sad and lamentable to see businesses leave communities that need or enjoy their services, it won’t be until society rejects lawlessness, and not only calls out criminals in their midst but encourages accountability, that our neighborhoods will find themselves at the “corner of happy and healthy,” to quote from the old Walgreens ad slogan.

MAYORKAS

From page 6

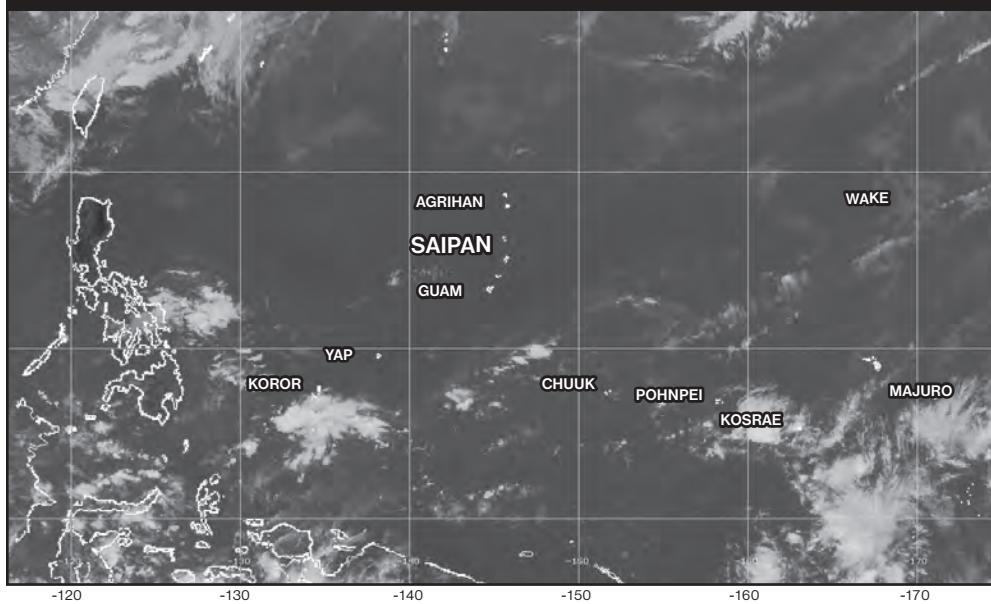
And when their stalling ended, the two articles of impeachment were dismissed and then the court of impeachment was concluded. The nine GOP roll calls ate up about 90 minutes, which somehow the GOP thought was a better use of time than three hours of actual debate.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

7 DAY FORECAST FOR CHATHAM AND VICTORIA				
TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Breezy in the upper elevations from late morning through sunset when winds may be as high as 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Breezy in the upper elevations from late morning through sunset when winds may be as high as 25 mph.	Partly cloudy. A 10 percent chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy. A 10 percent chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy. A 10 percent chance of light showers.

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:12 AM MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Just a few clouds are drifting across the region this morning. Altimetry shows seas are between 5 and 6 feet. In General, look for a dry week to prevail through much of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	89° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:15 AM	5:58 PM
Wednesday	-	5:50 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	-	6:28 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:34 PM
Saturday	-	7:57 AM	9:32 PM

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AROUND THE GLOBE

Auckland	Showers	66° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	77° / 52°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	78° / 70°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Manila	Fair	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
New York	Clear	52° / 43°
Osaka	Cloudy	76° / 61°
Paris	Showers	70° / 54°
Busan	Cloudy	62° / 57°
Rome	Showers	75° / 57°
Salem	Showers	77° / 49°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Tokyo	Cloudy	72° / 57°
Washington, DC	Fair	56° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:16 AM	Low Tide	0.80
6:59 AM	High Tide	1.85
1:42 PM	Low Tide	0.27
8:05 PM	High Tide	1.81

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via				Palau, Guam
			Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam,				via Guam
			Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA, United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE: The Chamorro spirit of Chief Petty Officer Luis Jose Reyes Blas

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector
Guam

In the vast expanse of the Pacific, where the horizon seems to stretch infinitely, blending sea and sky, Chief Petty Officer Luis Jose Reyes Blas charts a profoundly personal and universally inspiring course.

His recent advancement to chief petty officer on March 26, 2024, is a personal milestone and a continuation of a revered family legacy. Both his grandfather and great-grandfather served as chiefs in the U.S. Navy. Yet Blas' story is distinctly his own, woven from the rich cultural fabric of his Chamorro heritage, a point of pride, especially during Chamorro Heritage Month.

Blas, born on Saipan and raised in Guam, speaks with a passion that echoes his deep ties to his roots. "We are probably among the people proudest of where we come from," he says, reflecting a profound connection to the Chamorro culture, where family and community take precedence. This ethos has guided Blas throughout more than 15 years with the U.S. Coast Guard. Initially at MAT/WAT Guam, this tour, where he played a crucial role in ensuring the readiness of three fast response cutters, he is currently stationed aboard USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) on the engineering team.

Blas' love for the sea and dedication to duty are palpable.



USCG

Chief Petty Officer Luis Reyes Blas stands with fellow chiefs on March 26, 2024, at Latte Stone Park, Guam. This advancement was a personal milestone and a continuation of a revered family legacy. Both his grandfather and great-grandfather served as chiefs in the U.S. Navy.

ble. "Being a cutterman, you build a camaraderie like no other," he explains, highlighting the unique bond formed amidst the trials and triumphs of life at sea. With many years spent aboard U.S. Coast Guard cutters, including the USCGC *Sherman* (WHEC 720) and USCGC *Munro* (WMSL 725), USCGC *Myrtle Hazard*, and USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140), he has traversed the Pacific from the North Slope of Alaska south to Queensland, Australia. He was also aboard *Munro* for their inaugural operational patrol in 2018 and present for a rededication ceremony at a memorial to the cutter's namesake, Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro, who gave his life during the Guadalcanal Campaign during World War II in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

In the fall of 2022, he supplemented the USCGC *Oliver Henry* crew on their first expeditionary patrol, which took them over 8,000 miles south to Australia and back over 43

days, working with Pacific partners. His tenure aboard the *Oliver Henry* was marked by technical expertise and leadership. He significantly impacted the crew's operations positively through meticulous maintenance efforts and a wealth of knowledge shared with his shipmates. It also laid the groundwork for increased collaboration with colleagues in Papua New Guinea.

His three most memorable moments include community relations with the people of Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, where they hosted the crew and shared a sports day with students from HMPNGS Tarangau School. The second was in Australia.

"The whole time we were there, we were trying to catch this fish called a Barramundi. The only one to catch this fish was EM1 Ikaika Ruiz. It was the last night we were there, around 2200, and he brought in the fish. Everyone was so excited even though we didn't catch it personally," said Blas.

UOG Press, Aquarium of Guam hosts book launch promoting marine life conservation

The University of Guam Press is launching a new children's book titled *Tåsi, Tano, and Pulan* by Steven LeFever and illustrated by Constance Sartor.

The book tells the story of twins, Tåsi and Tano', who form a special friendship with a turtle named Pulan. When Pulan goes missing, the twins are confronted by the challenges facing Guam's sea life, highlighting the urgent need for environmental protection and the importance of preserving the island's ecosystem.



LeFever

mote a more sustainable living now and in the future."

UOG Press partnered with the Aquarium of Guam, formerly known as Underwater World, to host the book's launch on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 10am to noon. The event will include an author reading and book signing with LeFever and is free and open to the public.

LeFever will also be hosting a writing workshop that explores writing with creativity and intuition.

"I believe everyone has a capacity to create and that creating and honing the skills that we are naturally good at and that we can develop a passion for are as essential and necessary as eating and sleeping," said LeFever.

The workshop will be held at UOG Press on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 5:30pm. The workshop is free and open to

the public, and supplies will be provided. Spots are limited.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP for the writing workshop at <https://forms.gle/6n-mAxucMzfbVT57e8>.

Tåsi, Tano, and Pulan is available online at uogpress.com for a special pre-order price of \$12.

Sales in local bookstores and on Amazon will begin after the launch.

For more information, contact UOG Press publicist Via De Fant at (671) 735-2153 or defanty@triton.uog.edu.

The University of Guam Press publishes an array of academic and literary books and journals with a specific focus on the unique history, environment, peoples, cultures, and languages of the islands that make up the Western Pacific region. Visit uogpress.com to learn more about them and browse their wide selection of local art and literature. (PR)

experience it," said Blas.

Beyond his professional achievements, Blas is known for his vibrant spirit and hobbies, which connect him to his crew and culture. An avid music lover, Blas finds joy and solace in melodies, rhythms, and beats that transcend language and borders. His musical tastes are as diverse as the islands he calls home, creating a bridge between his heritage and his experiences around the world.

Blas' competitive spirit shines through in his prowess as a fisherman and in Super Smash Bros., where he can "throw down with the best of them." This playful side fosters camaraderie and light-hearted moments amidst the demanding pace of military life.

"My philosophy for being underway is to make the best of it and laugh as much as possible or make others laugh to ensure the time spent underway is joyful," Blas shares, embodying a leadership style that values high spirits and positive outlooks as much as it does excellence and dedication. Outside of work, you can find him at the beach, fishing, swimming, or "as we say on Guam, hanging out." Most of all, he enjoys spending time with his wife and children.

Reflecting on his leadership, Blas quotes Peter Drucker: "Leadership is not making friends and influencing people—that's flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, raising their performance to a higher standard, and building a personality beyond its normal limitations."

This philosophy, combined with his Chamorro values, shapes how he approaches his role within the Coast Guard, striving to elevate those around him while remaining grounded in the principles of family and community.

That leadership was on display in his time aboard *Myrtle Hazard*. Their expeditionary patrol in the fall of 2023 was a monumental 46-day, 7,484 nautical-mile journey that enhanced Pacific maritime security and facilitated international partnerships. His expertise ensured *Myrtle Hazard* remained a potent force for good, safeguarding maritime domains and engaging in vital community support and disaster response activities.

From delivering critical donations in the aftermath of Typhoon Bolaven to executing successful search and rescue operations, Blas' contributions were pivotal. His commitment to excellence and his ability to inspire his team underscores the profound impact of his service, echoing the enduring spirit of cooperation and resilience that defines the U.S. Coast Guard's mission across the Pacific and beyond.

As Blas prepares for his upcoming assignment going back to MAT/WAT Guam, his journey remains a testament to the power of heritage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to service. Blas stands as a beacon of pride for the Mariana Islands, a guardian of the seas, and a champion of the values that define the very essence of the U.S. Coast Guard. (PR)

UOG: Beware of social media scams offering online courses

The University of Guam is asking the public to report any fraudulent social media ads and posts impersonating UOG to Facebook and Instagram.

These ads from "Latest news01," claim to offer free courses at UOG and may be trying to defraud users or steal their personal information.

On any social media posts, direct messages, or emails, look very closely at the account names and the source of the links. If these are not from official University of Guam channels, then the content may be fraudulent.

"We thank our community for alerting us to these fake ads," said Jonas Macapinlac, chief marketing and communications officer. "We've sent a cease-and-desist letter and reported the fraudulent ads and account. However, the ads are still out there. Please don't click on any links or provide any personal information, and please continue to report any suspicious content."

Please report any suspicious ads and posts to Facebook,

Latest news01
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UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSDÄT GUÁHAN

University of Guam GOOD NEWS!

Starting April 2024: University of Guam offers online university courses for free to everyone aged 18 and over. You can attend the course at any time of your choosing. You will receive a diploma upon completion.

18-35 years old
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35-45 years old
View courses

45-55 years old
View courses

55+ years old
View courses

CERTIFICATE-COURSES.FUN
Free online courses with certificate

Apply now

Screenshot of fake ad by "Latest news01."

Instagram, or respective social media channel or alert the University of Guam via direct message on Facebook. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nation

IN HUSH MONEY CASE AGAINST TRUMP

Prosecutors make history with opening statements

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time in history, prosecutors will present a criminal case against a former American president to a jury Monday as they accuse Donald Trump of a hush money scheme aimed at preventing damaging stories about his personal life from becoming public.

A 12-person jury in Manhattan is set to hear opening statements from prosecutors and defense lawyers in the first of four criminal cases against the presumptive Republican nominee to reach trial.

The statements are expected to give jurors and the voting public the clearest view yet of the allegations at the heart of the case, as well as insight into Trump's expected defense.

Attorneys will also introduce a colorful cast of characters who are expected to testify about the made-for-tabloids saga, including a porn actor who says she had a sexual encounter with Trump and the lawyer who prosecutors say paid her to keep quiet about it.

Trump is charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records and could face four years in prison if convicted, though it's not clear if the judge would seek to put him behind bars. A conviction would not preclude Trump from becoming president again, but because it is a state case, he would not be able to

attempt to pardon himself if found guilty. He has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Unfolding as Trump vies to reclaim the White House, the trial will require him to spend his days in a courtroom rather than the campaign trail. He will have to listen as witnesses recount salacious and potentially unflattering details about his private life.

Trump has nonetheless sought to turn his criminal defendant status into an asset for his campaign, fundraising off his legal jeopardy and repeatedly railing against a justice system that he has for years claimed is weaponized against him.

Hearing the case is a jury that includes, among others, multiple lawyers, a sales professional, an investment banker and an English teacher.

The case will test jurors' ability to set aside any bias but also Trump's ability to abide by the court's restrictions, such as a gag order that bars him from attacking witnesses. Prosecutors are seeking fines against him for alleged violations of that order.

The case brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg revisits a chapter from Trump's history when his celebrity past collided with his political ambitions and, prosecutors say, he sought to prevent potentially damaging

stories from surfacing through hush money payments.

One such payment was a \$130,000 sum that Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and personal fixer, gave to porn actor Stormy Daniels to prevent her claims of a sexual encounter with Trump from emerging into public shortly before the 2016 election.

Prosecutors say Trump obscured the true nature of the payments in internal records when his company reimbursed Cohen, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in 2018 and is expected to be a star witness for the prosecution.

Trump has denied having a sexual encounter with Daniels, and his lawyers argue that the payments to Cohen were legitimate legal expenses.

To convict Trump of a felony, prosecutors must show he not only falsified or caused business records to be entered falsely, which would be a misdemeanor, but that he did so to conceal another crime.

The allegations don't accuse Trump of an egregious abuse of power like the federal case in Washington charging him with plotting to overturn the 2020 presidential election, or of flouting national security protocols like the federal case in Florida charging him with hoarding classified documents.

Local election workers fear threats to safety as Nov. nears

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—The group gathered inside the conference room, mostly women, fell silent as the audio recording began to play.

The male voice, clearly agitated, railed against what he thought had been fraud that cost former President Donald Trump reelection four years ago.

"You're gonna pay for it," said the man, filling his message with expletives and suggesting his target's throat be slashed with a knife. "We will ... take you out. Your family, your life."

The call had been directed at one of their own, a city clerk who had overseen elections in 2020 in her suburban Detroit community. The former clerk, Tina Barton, played the recording of the call she had received to an audience that included several dozen local election clerks and a few law enforcement officials who had gathered recently inside an of-

fice building conference room in northern Michigan.

"I want you to understand this voicemail is the same type of thing that we're seeing across the country, and it can find you anywhere you are—small community, large community, Michigan, Arizona. It can find you," said Barton, who was overseeing elections in Rochester Hills when she received the voicemail a week after the 2020 presidential election.

The recent gathering in Traverse City, a picturesque community on the shores of Lake Michigan in a county that has twice voted for Trump, was part of a national effort to train local election workers on how they can respond to threats and work with law enforcement to counter them.

As the nation barrels toward another highly charged presidential election, the threats to election offices that have been an alarming consequence of

Trump's false claims about his 2020 loss loom as a perilous wildcard for the thousands of local government workers who will oversee the indispensable infrastructure of the nation's democracy this fall. The constant threats and harassment have contributed to an exodus of election officials across the country.

Barton left her job in Rochester Hills shortly after the 2020 election and later became part of the newly formed Committee for Safe and Secure Elections. Since joining, she has given nearly 100 presentations throughout the country.

Earlier this month, The Associated Press was granted rare access inside the committee's training session in Traverse City and allowed to observe the scenarios election workers are likely to face this year and the discussions about how they and law enforcement can prepare for them.

World

Aid approval brings Ukraine closer to replenishing troops

AP
Ukrainian soldiers carry shells to fire at Russian positions on the front line, near the city of Bakhmut, in Ukraine's Donetsk region, on March 25, 2024.



KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian commander Oleksiy Tarasenko witnessed a frightening shift last month in Russia's efforts to punch through Kyiv's defense of the industrial region known as the Donbas.

Standing against Russia's unyielding advance in the strategic front-line town of Chasiv Yar, he noticed that, instead of making typical light infantry assaults, Moscow's forces were taking brazen risks by launching battalion- and platoon-sized attacks, sometimes with up to 10 combat vehicles.

His men destroyed up to

80 tanks in the weeks that followed, but it did not slow the enemy. The confidence of the Russian military reflected the Kremlin's knowledge that Ukraine's ammunition supplies were dwindling as the U.S. dawdled over approving more military aid.

Saturday's passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a much-awaited \$61 billion package for Ukraine puts the country a step closer to an infusion of new firepower that will be rushed to the front line to fight Moscow's latest attacks. But the clock is ticking, with Russia using all its might to achieve its most significant

gains since its invasion by a May 9 deadline. In the meantime, Kyiv has no choice but to wait for replenishment.

Seeing a window of opportunity, Russia has seized the momentum on the battlefield and forced Kyiv's forces to cede tactically significant territory, one painful meter (yard) after another.

Wave after wave of mechanized units came for Tarasenko's brigade. Protected under an umbrella of attack drones and artillery fire, they reached the foot of Chasiv Yar, which is the gateway to Ukraine's defensive backbone in the Donetsk region.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran's supreme leader tacitly acknowledges Tehran hit little in attack on Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Iran's supreme leader on Sunday dismissed any discussion of whether Tehran's unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel hit anything there, a tacit acknowledgment that despite launching a major assault, few projectiles actually made it through to their targets. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments before senior military leaders didn't touch on the apparent Israeli retaliatory strike on Friday on the central city of Isfahan, even though air defenses opened fire and Iran grounded commercial flights across much of the country. Analysts believe both Iran and Israel, regional archrivals locked in a shadow war for years, are trying to dial back tensions following a series of escalatory attacks between them as the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip rages on and inflames the wider region.

Khamenei, 85, made the comments in a meeting attended by the top ranks of

Iran's regular military, police and paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a powerful force within its Shiite theocracy. "Debates by the other party about how many missiles were fired, how many of them hit the target and how many didn't, these are of secondary importance," Khamenei said in remarks aired by state television. "The main issue is the emergence of the Iranian nation and Iranian military's will in an important international arena. This is what matters." Iran launched hundreds of drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles that sought to overwhelm Israel's air defenses in the April 13 attack—the first on Israel by a foreign power since Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched Scud missiles at Israel in the 1991 Gulf War.

Race car in Sri Lanka veers off track killing 7 people and injuring 20, officials say

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A race car veered off the track during a competition in Sri Lanka on Sunday and rammed into a crowd of

spectators and race officials, killing seven people and injuring 20 others, officials said. Thousands of spectators looked on as the mishap took place during a race in the town of Diyatalawa in the tea-growing central hills, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) east of the capital Colombo. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the mishap. Police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa said one of the cars veered off the track and crashed into spectators and officials of the event. Seven people, including four officials, were killed and another 20 were being treated at a hospital, said Thalduwa. He said three of the injured were in critical condition. Thalduwa said police have launched an investigation into the accident, which was the 17th out of 24 events scheduled. The race was suspended after the accident. About 45,000 spectators had gathered at the race circuit at a Sri Lankan military academy. The event was organized by the Sri Lankan army and Sri Lanka Automobile Sports.

In Loving Memory of †**Mark Aquiningoc Funkugub**

Sunrise: March 03, 1966 • Sunset: April 16, 2024

In his eternal life, he now joins his loving:

Father: †**Justin Anselm Funkugub**
Mother: †**Maria Gurumow Aquiningoc**

He will be forever missed and loved by his:

Common-law Wife: **Arlene Deleon Guerrero**
Children: **Jenny Sablan Funkugub & Jereeza**
Pangelinan (Jevaughn)
Christine & Erin Sonoda Sablan
(Rilani *unborn)
Jessie Ann Sablan Funkugub & Kristy Leon
Guerrero (Rylie and Jayvin)
Mark Funkugub Jr. (Ayven and Audrie)
Selena Sablan Funkugub & Katsutoshi
Pangelinan (Natsumi and Katsutoshi Jr.)
Jolynn DLG & Gerome Mira (Rosalie)
Joseph Jr. & Kayla DLG (Kamila Victoria)
Joshua DLG & Izsha Bersamin (Joshua Jr. and Joseph Jesus)
Kolene Tudela & Kyle Shenkel (Kolson Jay and Kyson Kole)
Frank Tudela & Alyssandra Cruz
Zerahlene Arriola & Vera Cruz
Heath Jose Funkugub (Heather Marie, Hayden, and Hayzen Jose)
Shaniah Marie Funkugub & Jayden Mendiola
Christian Jesus Funkugub
Tristan Jay Funkugub
Miley Joy Funkugub
Cheyenne Remedio DLG
Chanay Immaculate DLG
Mark Jude Camacho Funkugub & Family

Siblings:

Tina Funkugub
Paul Funkugub
Irene Funkugub
Tim Funkugub
Luke Funkugub
Justin Funkugub Jr.
Martin Funkugub
Joseph Funkugub

Our beloved †Mark will also be missed by numerous aunts,
uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Daily Masses are being offered at Kagman Santa Soledad Church at 6:00 pm.

Memorial Mass will take place at Mount Carmel Church
on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The Mass of
Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 1, 2024 in Arizona,
where our beloved †Mark will be laid to his final resting place.

Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support.

The Children & Family



Life & Style

Blige, Cher, Ozzy, A Tribe Called Quest, Foreigner get into Rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary J. Blige, Cher, Foreigner, A Tribe Called Quest, Kool & The Gang and Ozzy Osbourne have been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a class that also includes folk-rockers Dave Matthews Band and singer-guitarist Peter Frampton.

Alexis Korner, John Mayall and Big Mama Thornton earned the Musical Influence Award, while the late Jimmy

Buffett, MC5, Dionne Warwick and Norman Whitfield will get the Musical Excellence Award. Pioneering music executive Suzanne de Passe won the Ahmet Ertegun Award.

“Rock ‘n’ roll is an ever-evolving amalgam of sounds that impacts culture and moves generations,” John Sykes, chairman of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, said in a statement.



“This diverse group of inductees each broke down musical barriers and influenced countless artists that followed in their footsteps.”

The induction ceremony will be held Oct. 19 at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse

AP
Mary J. Blige onstage during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

in Cleveland, Ohio. It will stream live on Disney+ with an airing on ABC at a later date and available on Hulu the next day.

Those music acts nominated this year but didn’t make the cut included Mariah Carey, Lenny Kravitz, the late Sinéad O’Connor, soul-pop singer Sade, Britpopers Oasis, hip-hop duo Eric B. & Rakim and alt-rockers Jane’s Addiction.

Yoko Ono to receive Edward MacDowell Medal for lifetime achievement

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the country’s leading artist residency programs, MacDowell, has awarded a lifetime achievement prize to Yoko Ono. The groundbreaking artist, filmmaker and musician is this year’s recipient of the Edward MacDowell Medal, an honor previously given to Stephen Sondheim and Toni Morrison among others.

“There has never been anyone like her; there has never been work like hers,” MacDowell board chair Nell Painter said in a statement Sunday. “Over some seven decades, she has rewarded eyes, provoked thought, inspired feminists, and defended migrants through works of a wide-ranging imagination. Enduringly fresh and pertinent, her uniquely powerful oeuvre speaks to our own times, so sorely needful of her leitmotif: Peace.”

Ono’s son, Sean Ono Lennon, said in a statement that the medal was “an incredible honor.”

“The history and list of past recipients is truly remarkable.



AP
Yoko Ono appears before the dedication ceremony for her permanent art installation, a sculpture called SKYLANDING, at Jackson Park, Oct. 17, 2016, in Chicago.

It makes me very proud to see her art appreciated and celebrated in this way,” he said.

Ono, 91, has made few public appearances in recent years and is not expected to attend the July awards ceremony, at the MacDowell campus in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Ono’s music manager, David Newgarden, will accept the award on her behalf.

Ono first became known as part of the avant-garde Fluxus

movement of the 1960s, then reached international fame after meeting John Lennon, to whom she was married from 1969 until his death, in 1980. Their many collaborations included the songs “Give Peace a Chance,” “Imagine” and “Happy Xmas (War Is Over),” the basis for “War Is Over! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko,” this year’s winner of the Oscar for best animated short film.

Kevin Bacon dances back to ‘Footloose’ high school

PAYSON, Utah (AP)—Actor Kevin Bacon on Saturday returned to the Utah high school where the cult classic movie “Footloose” was filmed more than 40 years.

Bacon danced his way to a stage on a Payson High School athletic field Saturday to greet students before what likely was the final prom held at the school, which is set to be torn down next spring.

“You talked me into it,” Bacon said, according to video posted by Salt Lake City’s ABC 4. “It’s great to see that kind of commitment to anything. I also think that it’s amazing to see the power that this movie has had to bring people together.”

Bacon starred in “Footloose” as a Chicago teen who moved to a small town and fought its ban on dancing. Payson High School students ended Saturday with a “Footloose”-themed prom, just as the movie ended.

About 21,000 people live in Payson, which is about 60 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Principal Jesse Sorenson said students for years have tried to persuade Bacon to visit.

What started as lighthearted appeals on social media turned into a community wide



AP
In this photo provided by Jesse Sorenson, actor Kevin Bacon, center, helps fill care packages for his charity, Saturday, April 20, 2024, in Payson, Utah, while visiting the Utah high school where cult classic “Footloose,” was filmed.

The truth comes out via conveniently timed text

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my sister and I took our kids on vacation together. She and I get along but have never been close. Sometimes I walk on eggshells around her because I never know what might make her upset.

I thought we were having a good time on that vacation and getting along well, even though I was anxious. We were both taking pictures with our phones, and she handed me hers to forward myself some of the pictures. While I was looking at them, a text message pinged, and I checked it without thinking about it not being my phone.

It turns out my sister had spent the entire vacation texting about my “B.S.,” my inability to do anything competently and even referenced something that happened years before. I had noticed her constant texting but said nothing because I didn’t want to risk an argument.

I am still angry about this and don’t know how to let it go. I really don’t want to travel with her again, since I know the invisible third party will be with us the whole time. How do I deal with this?

STAYING PUT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR STAYING PUT: When you saw that message from your sister’s text partner you should have handed her the phone and started packing. You are not obligated

to travel with someone who causes you to walk on eggshells, ignores you, puts you down and says nasty things behind your back. Don’t be mean about taking steps to protect yourself. Simply stop vacationing with her. (I know I sure would!)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife recently had her DNA tested so she could learn more about her genealogy. She then decided to make her results public so other possible relatives could contact her. Not long ago, she received an email from a man, “Stan,” claiming a DNA match.

Stan said he was adopted, and his search to find his birth parents had hit a dead end. My wife immediately recalled old family stories about an older relative—who is still alive—who had given up her baby for adoption. Several pieces of information from Stan matched (like his birthplace), and we have no doubt my wife’s relative is this man’s parent.

Our question: Do we help Stan contact his long-lost parent? As sad as it may be, I don’t think it’s our business to surprise my wife’s kin with news of a son they’ve never talked about. My wife is leaning in the opposite direction and sees no harm. What do we do?

TO HELP OR NOT TO HELP?

DEAR TO HELP: Your wife should contact the rela-

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

tive in question, explain about her DNA test and inform her that she has been contacted by a man claiming he is related. She should tell her relative she had long ago heard about a child that may have been placed for adoption. If your wife’s relative would like to have “Stan’s” contact information, she should share it. However, if this relative isn’t open to being contacted, your wife should let the matter rest.

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Observes	DOWN	22	Jessica of
1 Soccer score	38	Ramadan	1 Prattle	2 Yucatan	"Fantastic Four"
5 Runs (into)	Per	Franklin, a cer-	2 Yucatan	23 Recoils	24 Elitist
9 Cran-	40	tainty	3 Mornings, briefly	26 Some	27
berry	End-of-	4 Not long ago	4 Not long ago	WWII	jiffy
territory	wk. cry	5 Indy event	5 Indy event	vets	28 Help a hood
12 Mater lead-in	42	"How adorable!"	6 Quantities (Abbr.)	29 Auction	30 "Dig in!"
13 Latin 101 word	43	Elaborate	7 Chinese chairman	signals	31 Reception
14 Commotion	48	architectural style	8 Weird	feature	feature
15 Oscar category	49	Fluffy scarf	9 Troublemakers	34 "Dig in!"	35 Tennis star
17 Cotillion celeb	50	Romeo	10 River to the Baltic	35	Nadal
18 Checks out	Online auction	11 Asian desert	11 Asian desert	37 Repair	38 Smidgens, as
19 Arcade pioneer	site	16 Sailor's "yes"	16 Sailor's "yes"	39 Furry sci-fi critter	of cream
21 Aesopian story	51	Blue hue	20 Frank McCourt memoir	40 Wilson predecessor	40
24 Use scissors	52	Campus mil.	21 Type choice	41 Avocado dip, for short	41
25 Skin care brand	53	group	22	44 "Xanadu" band	44
26 Airplane measure	Fibs	23	23	45 Hitter's stat	45
30 "This Is Us" network	Solution time: 22 mins.	24	24	46 Inventor's monogram	46
31 Kayak's cousin	IRAS EGO SOLE	25	25	47 Method (Abbr.)	47
32 Wall St. deal	SAK HAR OY ORAL	26	26		
33 Go by taxi	HEAT WAVE NAPS	27	27		
35 Clarinet insert	IRIS RWANDA	18	19		
36 Get lippy	TRACY PHAT	19	20		
	RANK H OF C A K F	20	21		
	INN M F S A S L V S	21	22		
	TOP MAST AWES	22	23		
	RIFT A FIRE	23	24		
	NATIVE BUG	24	25		
	EMUS DEADBEAT	25	26		
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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Dev Patel, 34; Jaime King, 45; Jonathon Ruckman, 55; George Lopez, 63.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to how you present yourself. Put your best foot forward and refuse to let your emotions surface in situations that require stability, insight and tough decisions. Protect against poor health or giving in to overindulgence. Reiterate your position and feelings clearly, and focus on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. Change begins with you; don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Your numbers are 9, 16, 24, 27, 33, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reach out and connect [with?] people of interest. Don't feel pressured to participate in events or pastimes you don't enjoy. Decisions determine the direction you take and the opportunities you encounter. Refrain from letting others take charge. Happiness is determined by doing what makes you happy. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll gain the most from working alone and being secretive regarding your plans until you have everything in place. Sharing personal information will backfire, forcing you to head into damage control, leaving no time to get things done. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention, study and use the knowledge you gain to improve yourself and your pursuits. A physical change will lead to compliments and give you the boost and confidence you need to further your agenda. Believe in yourself, and everything else will fall into place. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your energy wisely. Choose self-improvement and pastimes that promote positive thinking.

Don't limit yourself; be creative, and you'll discover exciting ways to use your skills and imagination freely. Refuse to let outside influences cause emotional setbacks and insecurities. Do your very best. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Following up is essential. Whatever you decide to do, have a plan and oversee every detail. Your input will make the difference and give you leverage when it counts. Don't put emotional pressure on yourself. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take your experience, knowledge, and skills and put them to good use. It's up to you to make a difference and navigate your way to your desired destination. Relationships will require insight and patience, but you'll make headway as soon as you understand what others want. ☀️☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll gain the most from working alone and being secretive regarding your plans until you have everything in place. Sharing personal information will backfire, forcing you to head into damage control, leaving no time to get things done. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ☀️☀️

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CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your energy wisely. Choose self-improvement and pastimes that promote positive thinking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your eye on what's important to you and take action to protect what's yours. Don't make promises you don't want to keep or offer a false impression to someone to spare feelings. A direct and honest approach will save time, money and reputation. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your heart and pick up the pace. Added discipline will help you reach your goal in record time and with a unique twist that will capture the imagination of those you encounter. Opportunity comes with change. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gain clarity if you make changes, try something new, or look for opportunities to bring in more cash or make your life easier. Rethink how you use your space, and you'll devise a plan that saves you time and money. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, intense and forthright. You are imaginative and opportunity-driven.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get your house in order. Go over money matters and clear up paperwork. Refrain from letting someone talk you into something costly or uninviting. You can't always please everyone. Put yourself first and relax and rejuvenate. A change will lift your spirits. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to contracts, agreements and joint ventures. Watch where your money goes and look for a way to lower your overhead. Don't let what others do tempt you to follow. You are better off doing your own thing and simplifying your lifestyle to fit your budget. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gain clarity if you make changes, try something new, or look for opportunities to bring in more cash or make your life easier. Rethink how you use your space, and you'll devise a plan that saves you time and money. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, intense and forthright. You are imaginative and opportunity-driven.

• Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀️☀️: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀️☀️☀️: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀️☀️☀️: Aim high; start new projects. ☀️☀️☀️: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STORAGE UNITS

Solution: 5 letters

S	E	C	I	V	E	D	E	C	L	U	T	T	E
E	N	E	H	C	T	I	K	O	F	I	C	E	E
C	E	O	G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	I	O	S
U	D	R	W	R	O	O	D	N	I	L	E	M	E
R	R	G	A	B	S	N	B	P	B	T	S	P	C
E	A	A	T	C	O	I	L	U	N	Q	U	O	T
V	G	N	T	C	K	A	P	E	M	O	O	T	R
I	A	I	I	E	S	E	R	A	H	L	H	E	O
R	R	Z	C	T	R	U	C	D	C	S	E	R	N
D	A	E	I	S	T	H	O	E	L	K	R	F	I
H	G	C	O	I	I	O	S	L	E	B	A	L	C
S	E	N	N	R	E	D	L	O	F	W	G	S	D
A	A	R	E	S	T	N	E	M	P	I	U	Q	E
L	U	E	L	B	A	T	N	E	M	T	R	A	P
F	A	C	I	L	I	T	Y	Y	A	W	L	L	A

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Phillies sweep struggling White Sox, 8-2



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Trea Turner stole home, Kyle Schwarber hit a solo shot and Aaron Nola struck out seven in eight innings to help the Philadelphia Phillies complete a three-game sweep of the Chicago White Sox with an 8-2 win on Sunday.

Bryce Harper added a sacrifice fly and an RBI single on his best friend the Phillies Phanatic's birthday to complete an 8-2 homestand for the Phillies. After splitting a four-game series with Pittsburgh, the Phillies fattened their record with series sweeps of Colorado and the White Sox.

Beating the White Sox was pretty much a given on a windy, chilly day in Philly.

The big question—how long would it take for the White Sox to get a hit?

Spencer Turnbull carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and Zack Wheeler took one into the eighth in consecutive starts to open the series. The Phillies rotation entered the game having gone 31 1/3 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run, their longest streak since 1969.

NATIONALS 6, ASTROS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Left-hander Mitchell Parker threw seven shutout innings, and Luis Garcia Jr. had three singles and two RBIs and Washington beat Houston.

The Nationals have won three of their past four series after starting the season 2-6.

After allowing two runs over five innings last Monday in his major league debut, a 6-4 win over the L.A.

GUARDIANS 6, ATHLETICS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Josh



AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Aaron Nola pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, Sunday, April 21, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Naylor delivered a clutch, three-run double in the seventh inning as Cleveland continued their best start in 25 years with a win over Oakland to complete a three-game sweep.

With the Guardians up 3-2, Naylor, who celebrated a two-run homer on Saturday by bashing the top of his helmet with his bat before rounding the bases, doubled with the bases loaded off T.J. McFarland.

Naylor is batting .406 (13 of 32) with 14 RBIs in nine home games.

YANKEES 5, RAYS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Luis Gil struck out a career-high nine over 5 2/3 innings for his first major league win in three years, and New York took advantage of Adam Civale's control problems in a four-run fifth to beat Tampa Bay.

Civale walked three straight batters with two outs in the fifth, then gave up Alex Verdugo's two-run single and

RBI singles by Jose Trevino and Oswaldo Cabrera—all in a three-pitch span—as New York spurted ahead 5-1. The Yankees had been 3 for 17 with runners in scoring position heading into the inning.

RED SOX 6, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Wilyer Abreu had three hits and drove in two runs and Boston beat Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

Abreu's RBI single off Martín Pérez (1-1) in the third gave the Red Sox the lead for good. He added another RBI single in the sixth as Boston continued its strong play away from Fenway Park.

REDS 3, ANGELS 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Reds' bullpen picked up after starting pitcher Frankie Montas left the game in the first inning and Cincinnati shut out Los Angeles to sweep the series.

Montas was hit by a line

drive by Taylor Ward and left the game with a bruised right forearm after 16 pitches. Brent Suter allowed four hits in 3 1/3 innings. Emilio Pagan (2-1) earned the win after allowing one hit in two innings.

ORIOLES 5, ROYALS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Colton Cowser and Jordan Westburg hit back-to-back homers for Baltimore off Kansas City starter Seth Lugo, who had not allowed a home run since last September, and Baltimore went on to beat Kansas City.

Cole Irvin (1-1) scattered four hits and two walks in 6 2/3 innings for Baltimore. He stranded a runner on third in the first inning and another at second base in the fifth while earning his first win since beating the Royals on June 10, 2023.

MARLINS 6, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Jesus Sán-

chez hit a massive solo homer and an RBI single, helping Miami beat Chicago.

Sánchez, Luis Arzaez, Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Nick Fortes each had two hits as Miami salvaged a split of the four-game series. The last-place Marlins are 6-8 since they opened the season with nine consecutive losses.

Miami right-hander Edward Cabrera (1-0) pitched five innings of three-run ball in his second start. He struck out seven and walked three.

BREWERS 2, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Owen Miller broke a scoreless tie with a two-run single and Colin Rea tossed five shutout innings to lead Milwaukee to a win over the St. Louis.

Milwaukee has won four in a row and swept a three-game series in St. Louis for the first time since Sept. 24-26, 2018.

TIGERS 6, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Casey Mize pitched six scoreless innings for his major league win since 2021 and Buddy Kennedy homered as Detroit beat Minnesota.

Spencer Torkelson had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs. Riley Greene scored three times for the Tigers, who improved to 8-3 on the road.

DODGERS 10, METS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani broke Hideki Matsui's major league record for homers by a Japanese-born player with a huge two-run shot in the third inning, and Los Angeles snapped their three-game skid with a victory over New York.

Ohtani crushed a 423-foot line drive off Adrian Houser (0-2) deep into the right-field

bleachers for the two-time AL MVP's fifth homer of the year and the 176th of his six-plus seasons in the majors with the Angels and Dodgers. That eclipsed the record set by Matsui, the former Yankees slugger who played 10 seasons in North America.

PADRES 6, BLUE JAYS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Joe Musgrove pitched seven innings for the first time since July 4 and Xander Bogaerts homered for San Diego, who beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

Musgrove improved to 4-0 against the Blue Jays, who picked him in the first round of the 2011 draft. The big right-hander from suburban El Cajon allowed solo homers to Davis Schneider and Ernie Clement but otherwise pitched well enough to improve to 3-2. He allowed three runs on five hits and struck out three.

ROCKIES 2, MARINERS 1, 10 INNINGS, 1st game MARINERS 10, ROCKIES 2, 2nd game

DENVER (AP)—Ezequiel Tovar and Ryan McMahon each hit an RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Colorado over Seattle Mariners in the first game of a doubleheader.

A bases-loaded triple by J.P. Crawford keyed a six-run second inning that propelled Seattle past Colorado for a double-header split.

Cal Raleigh added a two-run homer in the sixth inning of the nightcap and finished the game with three RBIs. Seby Zavala had three hits and scored twice for Seattle, which has won five of six.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, GIANTS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Right-hander Slade Cecconi held San Francisco to two runs in six innings in his 2024 debut, and Gabriel Moreno hit a two-run, go-ahead single in the sixth inning to lead Arizona to a victory.

Cecconi (1-0) started in place of an injured Merrill Kelly to help the Diamondbacks earn a split of the four-game series. He was recalled from Triple-A Reno to make his fifth career start to replace Kelly, who was scratched with a shoulder injury.

RANGERS 6, BRAVES 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Andrew Knizner hit a three-run homer, Adolis García added a two-run shot and Texas avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over Atlanta.

Evan Carter also went deep as the reigning World Series champions erased an early 3-0 deficit and stopped Atlanta's six-game winning streak. Michael Lorenzen (2-0) recovered from a rocky start, giving up three runs and three hits with seven strikeouts in six innings.

6 Celtics score in double figures as they cruises past Heat, 114-94



BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum notched his first career playoff triple-double with 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead the Boston Celtics past the Miami Heat 114-94 on Sunday to open their first-round playoff series.

Derrick White added 20 points and four assists for Boston, which finished with six players in double-figures.

Miami spoiled the Celtics' NBA finals dreams last season, jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the conference finals and then blowing them out in Boston in Game 7.

But Boston fed off the energy of the TD Garden crowd on Sunday, knocking down 22 3-pointers and outscoring the Heat 31-14 in the third quarter. The Celtics' lead grew as high as 34 points in the fourth.

Miami used a late run to get as close as 14, but Boston was able to close it out.

Including the regular season, Boston is 38-4 at home and has won its past four meetings with the Heat.

Bam Adebayo scored 24 points for the Miami, which played for the second straight game without star Jimmy Butler following his right knee injury during the play-in round. Terry Rozier also remained out with a neck injury. Delon Wright added 17 points. Jaime Jaquez Jr. finished with 16 points.

Game 2 is Wednesday in Boston.

CLIPPERS 109, MAVERICKS 97

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Harden scored 28 points, Ivica Zubac had a double-double and Los Angeles defeated Luka Doncic and Dallas to win

their playoff series opener.

Harden hit 6 of 11 3-pointers and had eight assists. Zubac's 20 points were a playoff career high to go with 15 rebounds. Paul George added 22 points. The Clippers outdid the Mavs at their own 3-point game, making 18 of 36 from long range to 10 of 33 for Dallas.

The Clippers had five players in double figures without Kawhi Leonard. The two-time NBA Finals MVP hasn't played since March 31 because of inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

The teams were meeting in the playoffs for the third time in five years, with the Clippers having won both previous series.

Doncic led the Mavs with 33 points and 13 rebounds. Kyrie Irving had 31 points and seven rebounds, but the Mavs got little from their supporting cast.

BUCKS 109, PACERS 94

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Damian Lillard scored all 35 of his points before halftime and Milwaukee withstood the absence of Giannis Antetokounmpo to defeat Indiana in their Eastern Conference playoff opener.

The Bucks needed Lillard to step up without Antetokounmpo, whose return date is uncertain as he deals with a strained left calf that also caused him to miss Milwaukee's final three regular-season games.

With Antetokounmpo watching from the bench, Lillard came through by setting a Bucks record for points in either half of a playoff game.

THUNDER 94, PELICANS 92

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 28 points, including the go-ahead basket in the final minute, and top-seeded Oklahoma City edged New Orleans in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

New Orleans' CJ McCollum missed an off-balance 3-pointer in the closing seconds and the Thunder held on to win their first home playoff game since 2019.

Jalen Williams scored 19 points and Chet Holmgren added 15 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the Thunder, who will host Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Trey Murphy III scored 21 points and McCollum added 20 for the Pelicans. Zion Williamson, New Orleans' leading scorer in the regular season, sat out with a strained left hamstring.

Tsunami Saipan celebrates Isaiah's latest achievement

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center recently celebrated top swimmer Isaiah Alekseenko's double bronze medals in the recent 47th Junior Olympic Cup at the Tokyo Aquatics Center in Japan.

"We celebrated Isaiah's medal win with Tsunami Saipan members participating in the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands. It was a truly remarkable result. World Aquatics points (former FINA point) were also a career high for him. The 50m butterfly is 796 and the 100m butterfly is 791. Both got close to 800 points," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiroyuki Kimura on Alekseenko's 100m butterfly swim of 51.98 last March 30 and 50m butterfly swim of 23.46 last March 29.

Kimura said Alekseenko's times far exceeded his expectations as his 50m butterfly swim in the Junior Olympic Cup obliterated the old standard of 26.70 set by Rezne Wong in December 2012. His 100m butterfly, meanwhile, eclipsed his own record of 54.55 set in December 2022.

"Isaiah's level is already beyond what the CNMI can handle. I'm really looking forward to his future," he said.

After the fierce competition in the Junior Olympic Cup, Alekseenko participated in a week of practice with the Hosei University swim team, where former CNMI national swimmer and former Tsunami Saipan captain Juhn Tenorio belongs.

"Hosei University is a strong team in Division 1—both men's and women's—



TSUNAMI SAIPAN

Front row from left, Richard Zhao, Kouki Watanabe, Isaiah Alekseenko, Kean Parjarillaga, and Justin Ma. Back row from left, Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, Shoko Litulumar, and Maria Bataillones pose for a group photo during Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's celebration of Alekseenko's feat in the 47th Junior Olympic Cup.

of the Japanese college league that has produced many Olympians and medalists. It looks like Isaiah had some great experience as well," said Kimura.

Joining Alekseenko and Kimura in the celebration of the former's stint in Junior Olympic Cup were Tsunami Saipan members bound for the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

"What we want to do in the Micronesian Games is to let the CNMI people know that the CNMI swim team is not the team which only has Isaiah. In the Micro Games there are many swimmers who can win medals!" Tsuna-

mi Saipan swimmers' goal is to win all gold medal and every swimmer wins a medal!" said Kimura.

Saipan Community School's Richard Zhao and Marianas High School's Justin Ma will each be making their national swim team debuts in the Marshall Islands, while Solomon Islands Pacific Games veterans Kouki Watanabe, also of MHS, and Kean Parjarillaga, who recently graduated from Grace Christian Academy, and of course Alekseenko are medal favorites in the Micro Games.

"Richard's potential in breaststroke is very high, I

believe he'll be able to win some medals in breaststroke. Justin is growing rapidly and aims to win medals in freestyle and backstroke. Kouki has reached the finals in the individual event of Pacific Games, so he is definitely a gold medal candidate in the Micro Games. Kean will also aim for gold medals in all events he'll be participating in. I'm sure Isaiah will conquer gold medals in all the events he will participate in as well," said Kimura.

As for women swimmers, the Tsunami Saipan coach and many time CNMI national coach said Hopwood Middle School's Sari Bar-

man, Mt. Carmel School's Maria Guerrero, and MHS' Shoko Litulumar and Maria Bataillones can also bag the CNMI multiple medals.

"Sari is a very talented

swimmer. She was a little behind due to some circumstances, but she is now recovering. I am sure Sari will win a medal in the Micro Games. Maria is the youngest swimming team member in this Micro Games. I know she will be a rising star this Micro Games. She aims to become the youngest butterfly medalist in Micro Games history. Shoko should not lose in the backstroke which is her style 1 stroke against swimmers from other countries. I hope she does her best to win as many gold medals as possible. Maria is the CNMI's strongest female swimmer. At the age of 15, she has already broken two CNMI national records for women. Maria is one of the top swimmers in Micronesia, so I want her to do her best and contribute to the NMI female team."

Kimura said Tsunami Saipan swimmers' stint in upcoming Micro Games will prove that the CNMI swim team is not a team that only has Isaiah.

"Winning a bronze medal in the medley relay in the Pacific Games is proof of that. Even if Isaiah is the only one who is fast, we definitely can't get any medal on relay. We can't win on relay unless we have four fast swimmers. Please know winning in relay is an amazing thing."

SHIRLEY'S

From page 16

so did MP United's chance to score a goal. Shirley's on the other hand, scored their third goal in the 50th minute off the boot of Marrielle Gariguez.

Try as they might, MP United Pink couldn't get past Shirley's keeper and they conceded as Shirley's put up a clean sheet, 3-0, to win the title.

Shirley's roster with Lopez, Castillo, and Gariguez included Jhaza Mirano, Melody Johnson, Stephanie Lumbad, Stephanie Lagunero, Ange-

lika Narvaez, Mikky Buno, Kathryn Sablan, Marielle Lopez, Werrly Breakenridge, Friendly Joy Pena, Marilou Arriola, Kristanna Lim, and Angelica Mia Carreon.

Third place went to Matansa FC after they defeated Latte FC, 4-1.

Latte's only goal was made 28 minutes in by Naomi Billo, while Matansa drew first blood in the 14th minute from Barbara Peteru. Jenna Rose Tenorio, Mikaela Dueñas, and Peteru went on to score three more goals to solidify their third place win to cap the season.

47

From page 16

Sporting Goods, "the Speaker of the House [Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan)] for supporting and providing us with some equipment... and the *peskadots* (fishermen)."

Dancoe also announced that for the first time, they are hosting a "Fisherman's Swap Meet" at the south end of the Garapan Public Market at the Garapan Fishing Base from 6am to 12pm on Saturday, June 15.

He said, "All anglers, fishermen, and captains can clear

FINAL

From page 16

In the Premier Builders vs. Longshot game, it was a sea of blood red jerseys which set the scene for a bloody battle for a Final 4 spot.

Premier Builders had everything going for them while Longshot scurried hurriedly to make their plays. Premier Builders' defense proved to be a formidable foe as they took down and blocked Longshots' main man James Kintz as much as they could.

However, Kintz still muscled his way through the paint whenever he could and led the team out of the first half with 16 points. It wasn't enough as Premier Builders claimed a 46-36 lead

heading into the second half from their starting five's contributions.

Premier Builders continued their fluidity on the court and their teamwork trumped Longshots' one-man army. Almost everyone on the team contributed, but notably, Jomari Dela Cruz posted the most at 18, while Carlo Castillo shot 15, and John Mejaito had 14 markers.

Kintz finished the game with a game-high 38 points, while Duncan Laxa put up 13.

For Choju, the youngsters took down veteran players of La Mesa Kusina, which was already a blowout game at the end of the first half.

It was quite physical with multiple fouls for both teams but Choju's dexterity carried

them to the semis. Choju camped the 3-point line and before the end of the first half, made three back-to-back three-pointers to seal a 15-point lead, 51-36.

Choju continued to chug full steam ahead and let it rain threes left and right while La Mesa struggled to keep up. At the end, Choju's Jay Art Palmes led the team with 29 points, followed by Henry Aguon's 20, and Junior Aguon's 13.

La Mesa Kusina's Web Gontar also posted 29 markers, while Leo Apelo and Francisco Gutierrez sank in 10 apiece.

Catch the semis tonight, Thursday night, and Saturday night, with the championship series slated for April 30, May 2, and if needed, May 4.

Sunday

Premier Builders 97 – Dela Cruz 18, Castillo 15, Mejaito 14, Peredo 13, Didulo 12, Directo 10, Reyes 7, Villocero 6, Yanto 2.

Longshot 72 – Kintz 38, Laxa 13, Cubangbang 6, Tolentino 5, Malonzo 5, Fornales 3, Flamar 2.

Scoring by halves: 46-36, 97-72.

Saturday

Choju 97 – Palmes 29, H. Aguon 20, J. Aguon 13, Dikito 11, Faisao 8, Pangelinan 7, Mamis 6, Babauta 3.

La Mesa Kusina 72 – Gontar 29, Apelo 10, Gutierrez 10, Broncano 5, Agustin 4, Natividad 4, Albert 3, Flores 3, Velasco 2, Taraya 2.

Scoring by halves: 51-36, 97-72.

out their storage and tackle. Some boats will be up for sale. Basically, come out if you're a mariner or a fisherman and you got a couple of reels you want to trade up, sell, or swap."

With this event just before Father's Day, Dancoe said it's a great chance for anglers to swap out their gear. "We try to keep our ear close to the community on what they're asking for and what they want. It costs nothing to be a part of and admission is free. If they need more information, they can contact any SFA member," said Dancoe.



Phillies sweep struggling White Sox, 8-2.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tsunami Saipan celebrates Isaiah's latest achievement.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's blanks MPU Pink for women's title

NMIFA

First place Shirley's Football Club, center, second place MP United Pink, left, and third place Matansa, right pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club served up a 3-0 finals win over MP United Pink in the championship game of the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Shirley's went right to work and even before MP United Pink got their feet wet, Jeraldine Castillo nipped the net in the second minute to put them up, 1-0. This early goal set the tone for the rest of the game as they kept up their attacks and their defense didn't give in to a relentless MPU team.

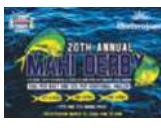
MP United Pink couldn't catch a break in the first half though, while Shirley's Mikayla Lopez tacked on another goal for a 2-0 lead.

Heading into the second half, MP United tried to regroup but Shirley's had only one thing in mind—win the championship. Time slipped away and

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 15

47 boats in SFA mahi derby; Fisherman's Swap Meet on June 15

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER


The Saipan Fishermen's Association's 20th Mahi Fishing Derby finally got underway last Saturday after a couple of postponements due to inclement weather.

On the third try, they finally got going with 47 boats racing to catch the biggest mahi mahi off the islands' waters.

Curtis Dancoe, SFA chairman, said they were happy that the derby finally got underway. "We got 47 boats and a couple from Tinian that came in to help out. We had some as small as 15-footers and as big as 48-footers, so that was good."



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Fishermen's Association chair Curtis Dancoe announces the winners of the SFA 20th Mahi Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

"The fishermen were waiting for this and it finally came. For the most part, everyone had a good time. It's the first derby of the year and they were able to test

their gear and equipment," said Dancoe. "They must've taken really good care of their equipment because we didn't have any distress calls."

The delays, he said, "were

not fun" but that some boats went out on their own during the supposed first event date last March 2. "Nobody likes the delays but it gave some fishermen time to cut their lawn," Dancoe said with a laugh.

As for the weather, for the most part, Dancoe said it was bumpy and windy with a lot of chop on the waters. "The wind kind of gave us a little break today. You're still getting wet, and you're still getting bounced around, but the wind was more forgiving—but that's what the mahi likes. They like a little chop."

He then thanked the event's sponsor Budweiser along with the Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Public Safety, Fishing Tackle &

See 47 on Page 15

Final 4 set for Legends caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Final 4 stage is set for the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2.

Premier Builders, Yuman, Savemore, and Choju secured their semis spot after they won their games last weekend at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium

in Gualo Rai.

Premier Builders won in a blowout, 97-72, last Sunday, while Choju also won, 97-72, over Mesa Kusina, last Saturday.

Yuman secured the last spot after they upset Tan Holdings, 97-90, last Sunday, and Savemore took down KagBros, 64-58, last Saturday.

See FINAL on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Premier Builders' Jerome Directo is blocked by Longshots' Ed Echavez as he tries to go for a shot under the basket during their quarterfinal game last Sunday in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.